



Bond Users Clearinghouse

Providing data to local jurisdictions and policymakers on public debt issues

Purpose

The Bond Users Clearinghouse is a repository of information about public debt, particularly by municipal jurisdictions. Local governments are required by statute to disclose this information to CTED, which makes it available free of charge.

Results and Achievements

- ◆ Municipalities can make more data-driven financial decisions by comparing the costs of relevant debt issues
- ◆ The Clearinghouse provides state-level policymakers with easy-to-read data analysis that helps them track trends in municipal debt
- ◆ The finance industry can draw upon otherwise unavailable market data

Performance Measures

- ◆ The accessibility of Clearinghouse services has been increased and per-unit costs reduced by shifting to electronic delivery systems
- ◆ The time needed to fill out and submit debt-disclosure reports has been reduced by the availability of web- and e-mail-based reporting options
- ◆ Upgraded databases allow more sophisticated multi-year trend analysis without increased workload

Fast Facts

- ◆ The dollar volume of public debt issues doubled between 2000 and 2003
- ◆ Issue volume for schools and cities jumped three-fold from 2000 to 2003
- ◆ Seattle owed 51 percent of general obligation debt by cities/towns in 2002
- ◆ Sixteen low-valuation counties owed only three percent of all county GO debt in 2002

For More Information

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Bond Users Clearinghouse

Statutory Authority

RCW 39.44.210

*Municipal debt issue reports and
municipal debt survey*

Services

Public Debt Monthly Update: This monthly newsletter presents information on individual debt issues by municipal jurisdictions and participating state agencies. Information includes the purpose of the debt, type of debt instrument, size of the issue, interest rate, issuance costs, and payment schedule

The Public Debt Report: This annual report analyzes trends in municipal and state debt activity

Public debt archives: Copies are available of official statements and other debt issuance materials

The Local GO Report: This annual report compares the debt levels of municipal jurisdictions to their statutory limits, and analyzes trends in levels of indebtedness by jurisdiction type

Staff can provide customized data and data analysis